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Lancaster Man Found Guilty in DUI Deaths

A Lancaster man was found guilty today of six felony counts involving a fatal car crash two years ago, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Edward Wiley said Tommie Lee Cole, 26, was found guilty of two counts of second degree murder, two counts of gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated, one count of DUI causing bodily injury, and one count of driving with a .08 percent blood alcohol causing injury. All special allegations were found to be true, including the allegation that the defendant's blood alcohol level was greater than .15 percent.

Judge Kathleen Blanchard will preside over the Feb. 28 sentencing in Department A21 of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Antelope Valley Branch. Cole faces a maximum sentence of 30-years-to-life in state prison.

On Feb. 26, 2012 Beau Josh Owen Fluker, 26, and Jeffrey Daniel Gilstrap, 23, were driving home after a late shift at the local Walmart on Feb. 26, 2012 when they were broadsided by Cole's vehicle at the intersection of East Avenue J and 20th Street West in Lancaster, according to Wiley. The victim's vehicle was found overturned on top of a fire hydrant.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Lancaster Station.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Annually, the <u>Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office</u> prosecutes more than 60,000 felonies and 140,000 misdemeanor crimes.